

Cat Haven Inspection 6-8-11 0800-1000hrs

Introduction: Paul Myers received a phone call from Alachua County Code Enforcement Director Rick Wolf Tuesday June 7, 2011 at ~ 8.00PM. Mr. Wolf requested an ACHD inspection at 0800 June 8, 2011. Anthony Dennis and Paul Myers met Mr. Wolf at the site and documented the following that is supported by photographs:

Insects:

- Mosquitoes: Evidence of mosquito breeding in various vessels on property and in standing water in bottom of in-ground swimming pool.
- Flies: Fly infestation on property; concentrated in cat pens around moldy cat food in open containers
- No significant flea infestation noted.
- No tick infestation noted.

Odors:

- Very strong odors in and around source areas; some pens, RV housing cats, inside and immediately around the home.
- Feces: Litter boxes need to be emptied and cleaned. Feces present on mats/rugs air drying/hung on fences. Easterly breeze from 0800 to 1000 hours. Perimeter of property did not have a strong odor. On the western boundary, faint "farm smell" noticeable. Off-site odor impact negligible during inspection time.

Storm-water runoff:

- Identified drainage ditch on southern property line; no noticeable residual impacts to this drainage easement.

Biomedical Waste:

- Evidence of biomedical waste generation; used syringes and needles.

Infirmary:

- Evidence of medications and unused syringes. Unclean cages with a few cats.

Vermin:

- Rat/mouse noticed in shed with animal feed.

Residence:

- Inside home, couch was covered with cat feces.
- Tile floor stained with feces.
- No children present or reported to be housed.
- General disorder
- Kitchen unsanitary with feces evident

Overall impressions:

Site has degraded since last visit on April 7, 2011. Animal handlers from SART, Humane Society and ACAS were present catching and caging large numbers of cats. Areas of facility are lacking maintenance resulting in build-up of feces, urine, moldy cat food, and general unkempt conditions. Offsite impacts during inspection appear to be minimal; however, potential exists for significant impacts if current conditions persist during heavy rain through run-off and certain prevailing wind direction and speed for odors.

Cat Haven Abatement Notice 6-09-11 1630hrs

Hand delivered Sanitary Nuisance Abatement Notice:

On June 9 at 4:30pm, Anthony Dennis hand delivered and served the Lefowitz's a Notice to Abate a Sanitary Nuisance at 21023 Railroad Avenue, High Springs, FL 32643 per 381.0041 (1),(a),(e),(f) FS.

The ACHD inspection disclosed unsanitary conditions are being created/maintained that breed mosquitoes in various vessels on property and an in-ground swimming pool in addition to fly infestation around unclean litter boxes and moldy cat food and areas around the house and inside an RV with accumulations of cat feces. Used syringes and other biomedical waste were found in the infirmary and other places on the property. These violations need to be corrected by close of business Monday, June 13, 2011. All biomedical waste needs to be collected and placed in the provided sharps container and red bags and dropped off at the Alachua County Health Department located at 224 SE 24 Street, Gainesville.

Cat Haven Inspection 6-13-11 1400-1600hrs

Re-inspection:

Anthony Dennis and Todd Harris met Alachua County Code Enforcement Director Rick Wolf onsite at approximately 2:00pm to perform a re-inspection of the sanitary nuisance. The inspection was conducted in the same manner and order of the initial investigation.

Insects:

- Mosquitoes: Most vessels on property including the standing water in bottom of in-ground swimming pool were empty or had been stored so as not to trap water. There were 3 or 4 small containers and one larger container with clean water.
- Flies: fly infestation on property was abated at the time of this inspection. Although there was an occasional fly, the infestation that was concentrated in the cat pens was not present. All open cat food had been disposed of.

Odors:

- Some strong odors in and around some pens, the RV that housed cats, and inside the home, still persists. The pens, RV, and indoor cages did not contain cats with the exception of approximately 6 six cats in a couple of cages in the infirmary. A few cages still need to be cleaned out.
- Feces: All litter boxes with the exception of one in the first pen had been cleaned or removed. All of the feces on mats/rugs that were hung on fences had been disposed of. There were three piles of leaf and feces litter in the first pen that still need to be collected and disposed of. Mr. Lefowitz indicated that he was in the process of doing it. The RV still contained some carpet with feces. As mentioned above a few cages still needed to be cleaned out. The perimeter of property did not have a strong odor. Off-site odor impact negligible during inspection time.

Biomedical Waste:

- Anthony Dennis and Todd Harris collected 1 red box and 2 red bags of biomedical waste (approximately 10lbs total). No other evidence of biomedical waste was found.

Infirmary:

- As mentioned above, 2 or 3 cages still needed to be cleaned out (old food and feces).

Residence:

- Inside home, couch was clean.
- Tile floors had been washed but still had a few stains.
- No children present or reported to be housed.
- Areas still in some disorder
- Kitchen was somewhat cleaner, no feces were evident

Overall impressions:

Significant cleanup of the site has taken place. There no longer exists a fly infestation and mosquito breeding grounds have been abated. 90-95% of the feces and old food have been disposed off. Dumpster is empty and area clean. Steve and Penny Lefowitz indicated they were still in the process and will continue to clean up. They were made aware of the minor issues that still need to be abated and were told we would re-inspect next Monday, June 20, 2011.

Anthony Dennis and Todd Harris also listened to the issues Rick Wolf and the Alachua County have with site. Rick Wolf notified Steve and Penny Lefowitz of the county's intent to revoke their Special Use Permit. Steve and Penny acknowledged that they had recently had an influx of cats and a lot of cats had been dropped off at their property.

Cat Haven Inspection 6-20-11 1530hrs**Re-inspection #2:**

Anthony Dennis performed a re-inspection #2 of the sanitary nuisance which had previously been 90-95% abated at approximately 3:30pm. The inspection was conducted in the same manner and order of the initial investigation.

Insects:

- Mosquitoes: There continues to be no more issues with breeding mosquitoes.
- Flies: There continues to be no more issues with fly infestations.

Odors:

- Still some odors in and around some pens and the RV that housed the cats. These odors have been reduced significantly since the last inspection. There were still a few dirty cages in the house and infirmary. No cats were observed in any of the cages.
- Feces: There were two small piles of leaf and feces litter in the first pen that still need to be collected and disposed of. Steve indicated that he would take of this immediately. The RV was clean and being ventilated. The Perimeter of property was again walked and no odors could be detected. Off-site odor impact negligible during inspection time.

Biomedical Waste:

- There continues to be no other evidence of biomedical waste.

Overall impressions:

Again, significant cleanup of the site has taken place. There continues to no longer be an arthropod (flies-mosquitoes) issue. 99% of the feces and old food have been disposed off. Dumpster was partially full with bagged litter and other debris but no odors were observed and the area clean. Steve and Penny Lefowitz indicated they are still in the process and will continue to clean the area. They were made aware of the minor issues that still need to be abated and were told ACHD would re-inspect next Monday, June 27, 2011.

Cat Haven Inspection 6-27-11 1645hrs**Re-inspection #3:**

Anthony Dennis and Paul Myers performed a re-inspection #3 of the sanitary nuisance which had previously been characterized as 99% abated at approximately 4:45pm. The inspection was conducted in the same manner and order of the initial investigation.

Insects:

- Mosquitoes: There continues to be no more issues with breeding mosquitoes.
- Flies: There continues to be no more issues with fly infestations.

Odors:

- Still some faint odors in and around some pens and the RV that housed the cats. These odors have again reduced significantly since the last inspection. All cages in the house and infirmary were clean. No cats were observed in any of the cages.
- Feces: The two small piles of leaf and feces litter in the first pen have been collected and disposed of. The RV was clean and still being ventilated. The perimeter of property was walked again and no observable odors could be detected. Off-site odor impact negligible during inspection time.

Biomedical Waste:

- There continues to be no other evidence of biomedical waste.

Overall impressions:

Again, significant cleanup of the site has taken place. There no longer exists a sanitary nuisance at the time of this inspection. Steve and Penny Lefowitz indicated they were in the process of addressing the County issues with regards to vehicles and other items on the property.